

## **IN THE ABSTRACT**

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

In a garment having a microphone integrated therein, and a communication system and method employing such a garment, the garment is either a facemask surgical mask or a neckband with the microphone integrated in the ~~facemask~~ surgical mask or neckband. The communication system also includes a reception unit, located remote from the garment, which receives and processes signals from the microphone.